

**EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**WHEREAS**, falls were the leading cause of injury and injury-related death in 2017 and 2018 in South Dakota. Falls were the leading cause of injury among South Dakotans age 65 and older. Half of the fall-related deaths occur among South Dakotans age 85 or older; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual medical cost related to non-fatal fall injuries is \$50 billion or \$95,000 per minute, with an additional \$754 million in costs related to fatal falls; and

**WHEREAS**, falling should not be considered an inevitable part of getting older; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC STEADI fall risk screening tool is available to identify fall risk factors, such as vitamin D deficiency, and appropriate intervention strategies, which include evidence-based community education fall prevention programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Dakota Fall Prevention Coalition is a multi-disciplinary group of professionals working to increase knowledge about falls among older South Dakotans, promote evidence-based strategies to prevent falls, and encourage citizens to take steps to reduce their risk of falling.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of September 20, 2021, as

**FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK**

in South Dakota.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this eleventh day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



Kristi Noem  
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

Steven J. Barnett  
Secretary of State